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QUESTION OF PALESTINE
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION
OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 22 December 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have pleasure in enclosing the Final Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, held in Manamah (Bahrain) from 17 to 19 Rajab 1415 (19 to 21 December 1994).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the Final Report circulated as a document of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

(Signed) Jassim BUALLAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Supreme Council

Final Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Supreme Council

Manamah, the State of Bahrain, 19 Rajab 1415
(21 December 1994)

Upon the invitation of His Highness Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Emir of the State of Bahrain, the Supreme Council held its Fifteenth Session in Manamah, Bahrain from 17 to 19 Rajab 1415 (19-21 December 1994), under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa. The session was attended by the following:

His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates;

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia;

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman;

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar;

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait.

The Council commended the important inaugural speech of His Highness Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Emir of the State of Bahrain and President of the Fifteenth Session of the Supreme Council, and the positive ideas it had contained for the promotion of cooperation between the States of the Council.

The Supreme Council heard a report from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, President of the Fourteenth Session of the Supreme Council, which included an evaluation of the excellent progress made by the Council, the security and welfare benefits that had been achieved for the citizens of the States of the Cooperation Council, and constructive suggestions for promoting cooperation and achieving the praiseworthy goals of the heads of State in the Council.

The report contained a complete analysis of all regional situations and international developments and the challenges they presented to the States of the Cooperation Council, challenges which would have to be met by those States with the utmost coordination and cooperation. He stressed the need to breathe new life into the Gulf's shared undertakings, and to strengthen traditional and fraternal ties on the basis of shared aspirations and common destiny. The Report also contained proposals for the reinforcement of joint security, the development and stimulation of economic cooperation, and a redoubling of efforts to put an end to undecided bilateral issues between States of the Council before the Sixteenth Session of the Supreme Council.

The Council also considered a letter addressed to his peers from His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, and commended the positive ideas and proposals it contained for ways in which the Council could achieve the hopes and aspirations of its peoples.

The Supreme Council considered reports and recommendations put forward by the Ministerial Committees and the Ministerial Council, and expressed its satisfaction with the results achieved in all areas of cooperation, renewing the determination to push that positive progress forward to wider horizons and the firm establishment of buttresses of security, stability and prosperity in accordance with the hopes and aspirations of the peoples of the Council States, and to strengthen the Council's positive role in dealing with regional and international changes. In this context, the Council examined the political, security and economic situations in the Gulf region in the light of current developments, and discussed ways of supporting the progress of the Cooperation Council and overcoming the obstacles in its path in the spirit and guided by the principles and goals of the Cooperation Council's Constitution, which affirmed that the Council had been based on a belief in common destiny and aspirations that united the peoples of the States of the Cooperation Council.

Implementation of Security Council resolutions related to Iraqi aggression

The Supreme Council studied regional developments and the progress of Iraq's implementation of Security Council resolutions connected with its aggression against the State of Kuwait. In this context, the Council noted Iraq's decision to recognize the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait, its regional security and international boundaries with Iraq, as called for by resolutions 687 (1991) and 833 (1993), and considered that to be an important step towards Iraqi compliance with all relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Council confirmed that, in this respect, the Iraqi recognition had been a result of the unyielding stance of the Cooperation Council States and the insistence of the international community, as represented by the Security Council, that Iraq should comply with all legal international decisions, and confirmation of the political and historical reality of the State of Kuwait, which was corroborated by official documents and bilateral and international agreements.

The Council expressed its appreciation to the States Members of the Security Council for their steadfast position calling for Iraq's compliance with all legal international resolutions, and appealed to them to maintain that principled and resolute stance and continue their earnest efforts to compel Iraq to take similar steps towards genuine implementation of all Security Council resolutions, especially those relating to the release of all Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees, and to implement the spirit and letter of Security Council resolution 949 (1994), which forbade it to perform any acts of provocation or aggression that would threaten the State of Kuwait or any State in the region. The Supreme Council affirmed that complete compliance by Iraq with all Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression would represent a fundamental element proving its good intentions towards the State of Kuwait

and the neighbouring States, and a starting point for strengthening security and stability in the region. It also affirmed that the security of each State in the Council is indivisible from that of every other of those States.

The Supreme Council reaffirmed its genuine concern for the territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty of Iraq, and its sympathy for the fraternal people of Iraq, who were undergoing an ordeal for which the Iraqi Government bore the entire responsibility as a result of its refusal to implement Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991), which would supply Iraq's medical and nutritional requirements.

Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the question of the islands

The Supreme Council discussed recent developments in relations between the States of the Cooperation Council and the Islamic Republic of Iran, confirming the position of Council States which calls for the maintenance of security and stability in the region, and the establishment of normal friendly relations based on mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, renunciation of the use or threat of the use of force, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

On the basis of those principles, the States of the Council had repeatedly appealed to Iran to respond to the United Arab Emirates' invitation to settle the issue of Iran's occupation of the three islands of Tunb al-Sughra, Tunb al-Kubra and Abu Musa, belonging to the United Arab Emirates, in a peaceful manner through serious bilateral negotiations.

Welcoming the efforts made by the United Arab Emirates to resolve that issue bilaterally, and noting Iran's failure to demonstrate any serious desire to discuss the ending of its occupation of the three islands Tunb al-Sughra, Tunb al-Kubra and Abu Musa, the Supreme Council called upon Iran to refer that matter to the International Court of Justice in its capacity as the international body competent to settle disputes between States.

The peace process in the Middle East

The Supreme Council studied developments in the Middle East peace process, and noted the tangible progress which had been made recently as evinced in the signing by the Israelis and Palestinians of the autonomy agreement, the steps they had taken towards an early transfer of responsibility to Palestinian civilian authority and the expansion of the extent of Palestinian self-rule, and the peace treaty signed between Jordan and Israel.

While the Council welcomed the perceptible progress made in the Middle East peace process and expressed its continued support for that process, it called upon the two sponsors of the peace conference to increase their efforts to make progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks, to call for complete Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights and South Lebanon, and to reach a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem in accordance

with the legal international resolutions, based on the principle of land for peace and Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978).

The Supreme Council also requested the Security Council and the sponsors of the peace process to prevent Israel making any changes in the status, demographic or geographic characteristics of the city of Jerusalem as the borders stood in 1967, and to ensure its compliance with all legitimate international resolutions relating to the holy city of Jerusalem.

The situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Supreme Council studied with extreme concern and unease the worsening security situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the continuation of the severe humanitarian crisis there as a result of the sustained Serbian aggression, ethnic cleansing and genocide of the Muslims of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The most recent example of that was the criminal onslaught on the safe area of Bihac, and the deliberate targeting of civilians there, which was in violation of the Charter of the United Nations. The Serbian refusal to accept the peace plan was a barefaced challenge to the international community. In this context, the Council expressed its complete support for the principled and conciliatory position adopted by the Bosnian Government, based on its desire to find peace.

While condemning the Serbian aggression, the Council expressed its great regret that the Security Council had failed to take any decisive action which would guarantee compliance with legitimate international resolutions, and urged the Security Council to employ effective measures to ensure Serbian compliance with relevant resolutions. International protection under the aegis of the United Nations should be strengthened, and the forces' role expanded, enabling the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to exercise its established and legitimate right to self-defence, in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, the Council reaffirmed its support for the resolution passed by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, concerning the readiness of the Islamic States to contribute to international efforts to supply the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the means of self-defence.

The Council confirmed the announcement made on 29 September 1994 by the Ministerial Meeting of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and the statement made by the Plenary Meeting of the Contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at Foreign Minister level, held at Geneva on 6 December 1994. It also demanded immediate compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 49/10, adopted on 3 November 1994.

In this context the Supreme Council confirmed its support for the resolutions and statements on the situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina issued by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca.

Manifestations of extremism and violence

The Supreme Council noted with great unease the manifestations of extremism and fanaticism which have led to acts of violence and terrorism, and emphasized its complete condemnation for and rejection of these practices in any form and under any circumstances. It called for these destructive phenomena to be confronted, considering them as far removed from the spirit of the true Islamic religion and in conflict with its merciful law. It also called upon the Council of Islamic Ulema to expound the values and principles of true Islam, based upon tolerance and non-violence, and to continue its efforts to provide appropriate and valid solutions to the problems of the age, in accordance with the precepts and principles of the true Islamic religion.

In this respect, the Council emphasized the need to increase efforts to make clear the true and honourable nature of Islam, and the essence of its enduring Shariah, which was appropriate for all times and places.

Areas of cooperation and coordination

With reference to military matters, the Supreme Council studied the proposals contained in the report of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the recommendations made by the Ministers of Defence at their thirteenth meeting. In view of the importance of effective cooperation between the States of the Council in defence matters and of the Supreme Council's desire to raise the efficiency of Cooperation Council States' collective defensive capability, it was decided to take steps to build an independent defence force in the light of a unified strategy. The many resources available would be brought into the service of Gulf security, and it was also decided to develop a deterrent force to arm the Peninsula and enable it to take rapid and effective action. The Supreme Council, which had put forward this idea at its Fourteenth Session, was given responsibility for monitoring its implementation.

With reference to security matters, the Supreme Council studied the latest developments in security cooperation between the States of the Council, and expressed its satisfaction with the level of cooperation and coordination between the various security apparatuses and sections of Member States and the progress made at the thirteenth meeting of Ministers of the Interior towards reflecting that understanding and firmly establishing it among Council States. It welcomed in particular the collective security agreement, which served as a framework for that activity, and the positive effects it would have on other areas of cooperation, along with measures which would meet the aspirations of Council States' citizens by facilitating movement between Member States, thus strengthening links between them and facilitating economic, social and cultural contacts.

In the economic sphere, the Supreme Council studied the proposals contained in the report of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to develop and stimulate economic cooperation between Council States, in the light of the results of the Ministerial meetings held over the past year. The Supreme Council decided to commission the relevant Ministerial Committees to:

Investigate the possibilities for accommodating the continuous growth in the numbers of citizens of Council States seeking employment in all production and service sectors;

Work to increase local industry's share in the national economy;

Encourage consumption of national products in each State, including raw materials, intermediate commodities and services produced in that or any other State of the Cooperation Council;

Encourage the use by developing industries of the most modern technology and their application of the highest quality standards, and assist investors in obtaining the necessary licences from technology-exporting States;

Use scientific research centres to carry out the research necessary in order to enable local sectors to use imported technology and adapt it to the requirements of local and foreign demand;

Give the commercial circles of Council States the opportunity to read studies of benefits, in order to encourage them to do as they think fit.

The Supreme Council also addressed the completion of the procedures necessary to unify professional associations in Cooperation Council States, in order to facilitate the establishment of joint enterprises, develop Gulf Banks to the highest possible banking standards, and review the measures adopted by Member States to implement Cooperation Council decisions in the economic sphere with a view to unifying those measures and making them clear to citizens of Council States attempting to profit from the advantages offered by those decisions with regard to the facilitation of movement of goods, services and capital and the establishment of investment projects.

The Council took note of the agreement of its Economic and Financial Cooperation Committee, to which it had delegated that matter, to permit health-related economic activities. It also noted with satisfaction the continuing growth in commercial exchanges between Council member States, and the increase in the number of citizens benefiting from the economic decisions made by the Council at previous sessions with regard to the exercise of economic activities, trades and professions, land ownership and the exchange of joint-stock company shares, which contributed to an increase in common interests and interdependence.

The Council also examined the results of the efforts made by the Economic and Financial Cooperation Committee to standardize customs tariffs, and by the Council of Ministers of Finance and Economy to reach agreement on the standardization and application of customs tariffs in order to accelerate the process of integration between Council States.

The Council decided to revise the standardized rules for the ownership and exchange of shares in order to allow the citizens of Council States to own and transfer the shares of joint-stock companies operating in various economic areas, with the exception of banks, currency exchanges and insurance companies. It established revised rules governing wholesale trade.

The Council expressed its satisfaction at the signing of the Uruguay Agreement, and the accession to it of the major commercial companies. It welcomed the establishment of the World Trade Organization, and looked forward to it assuming the role which it had been given of liberalizing international trade, which would contribute to its growth and speed up economic development.

The Supreme Council examined economic relations between Council States and the major commercial companies in the various areas of cooperation. It expressed its satisfaction at the progress made in several areas of economic cooperation with the European Union and its hope that such progress would increase, and would in particular make it possible to avoid the imposition of new taxes on energy. It also hoped that progress would be made in the negotiations on a free trade agreement between the two regions and the facilitation of entry of goods produced by Council States, thus increasing their exports to the European Union and ensuring a balance of trade between the two parties.

The Council also expressed satisfaction at the results achieved at the Ministerial Meeting in the area of economic cooperation with the United States of America, and reaffirmed the importance of continuing to build a solid foundation for cooperation between the two sides. It heard a report of the Ministerial Council on economic relations with Japan, and welcomed the results of the first Businessmen's Conference in Tokyo. The Council urged the major commercial companies to increase their investments in the States of the Gulf region.

The Supreme Council expressed its great appreciation and gratitude to His Highness Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Emir of the State of Bahrain, and to the Government and the people of the State of Bahrain for the kindness of their reception, their wonderful hospitality, the excellent arrangements which had been made, and the genuinely fraternal feelings with which the leaders of the Cooperation Council had been received. It affirmed the importance of the role played by His Highness Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Emir of the State of Bahrain and President of the current session of the Supreme Council, and stated that his excellent chairmanship of the meetings had played an important part in achieving the excellent and significant results of the session. The Council looked forward to its next meeting, at its Sixteenth Session, to be held in the Sultanate of Oman in December 1995, at the kind invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman.

Done at Manamah on
19 Rajab 1415
(21 December 1994)